

"RATCLIFFE CROSS"
Kennedyville, Maryland
(ca 1875)

This building is included on the survey because it represents another common type of house constructed in Kent County in the third quarter of the 19th century. Its materials, plan, and details were typical as is its siting far back from the public road. Interior stair, mantles, and trim as well as window and door units are representative of the kind of millwork that was shipped from the large Baltimore millwork houses after the middle of the century. Although many similiar houses survive in Kent, most have been extensively altered. The building was constructed between 1860 and 1877.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC "RATCLIFFE CROSS"

AND/OR COMMON

*Owings and Sons Farm***2 LOCATION** *West side of Harmony Woods Road, 1/2 mile*STREET & NUMBER *north of Junction with Morgnec Road*CITY, TOWN *Kennedyville*

VICINITY OF

1st
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTSTATE *Maryland 21645**Kent*
COUNTY**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTYNAME *Owings and Son, Inc. c/o R. Dorsey Owings*Telephone #: *928-5279*STREET & NUMBER
*Morgnec Road*CITY, TOWN
Chestertown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
*Maryland 21620***5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. *Kent County Court House*Liber #: *E H P 87*Folio #: *9*

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Chestertown, Maryland 21620

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-369

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT ☐ DETERIORATED
☐ GOOD ☐ RUINS
☒ FAIR ☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house on a part of the present Owings Farm is a five by two bay frame building with a four-bay long rear ell. The main house is two-and-one-half stories high with a steep gable roof that has three gable dormers in the east slope. The wing is two stories high with a shallow gable roof. A one by three bay entrance porch shelters the main entry in the east facade and another porch, four bays in length, provides access to the two entry doors on the south side of the ell. Small square brick chimneys are enclosed within each gable.

*Windows have 2/2 "limitation French" * sash in the main house and 6/6 sash in the ell and the roof dormers. Two small square four light casement windows illuminate the attic rooms. Louvered shutters are used at all second floor windows. Two-panel shutters are hung beside first floor windows on the main house. Throughout the building, window frames are narrow, consisting of a bead and fillet; wooden window sills project from the wall's surface.*

As with many buildings constructed in the late 19th century, architectural ornament is concentrated at the main entry and on the cornices. The Owings Farm house has a pair of entry doors with round-headed upper panels. Above the doors is a five-pane transom light and decorated transom bar; the doors themselves are flanked

* Two over two Victorian sash were so called in the George O. Stevens & Co. Catalogue, Baltimore, Md., 1879.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES *ca 1875*

BUILDER/ARCHITECT *John S. Hurlock*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is included on the survey because it represents one common type of house constructed in Kent County in the third quarter of the 19th century. Its materials, plan, and details were typical as is its siting. Interior stair, mantles, and trim as well as window and door units are representative of the kind of millwork that was shipped from the large Baltimore millwork houses after the middle of the century. Although many similiar houses survive in Kent, most have been extensively altered.

Land records in Kent County refer to this property by the name of "Ratcliffe Cross" at least since the 1860's. The farm has remained unchanged in size for about 125 years--203 acres more or less--except that a plot of land at the corner of Morgnec and Harmony Woods Roads was added to the property in 1965. This plot was the site of Kent County School # 2 which was standing in 1877. There are no remains of the school building above ground.*

The house now standing on "Ratcliffe Cross" was probably constructed by a John Hurlock between 1860 when he purchased the farm and 1877 when the house is shown on the Atlas of that year. According to the Kent County Land Records (SB1/1), John Hurlock was living on the farm when he died in 1880.

**A property on the southwestern edge of Chestertown is commonly known as Radcliffe Cross (K-86). The connection between these two properties, if any, has not been discovered.*

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kent County Land Records, Kent County Court House, Chestertown, Md., Lake, Griffing, & Stevenson. An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne (sic) Counties, Md. (Philadelphia: 27 South Sixth Street, 1877.. Waite, Diana. Architectural Elements, (Princeton: The Dyne Press, ca 1975.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION
Kent County Planning Commission

DATE
778-4600 ext.67

STREET & NUMBER
Court House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN
Chestertown, Maryland 21620

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

by three-pane side lights with a single molded panel beneath each side.

The main roof cornice has is shallow with a bold cyma reversa crown mold, a return, and bracketted corners. In all likelihood the bracketts once extended across the front and back facades.

The entrance porch has a flat roof finished with a cornice which resembles that of the main house roof. Porch posts are square with chamfered corners and curved sawn bracketts.

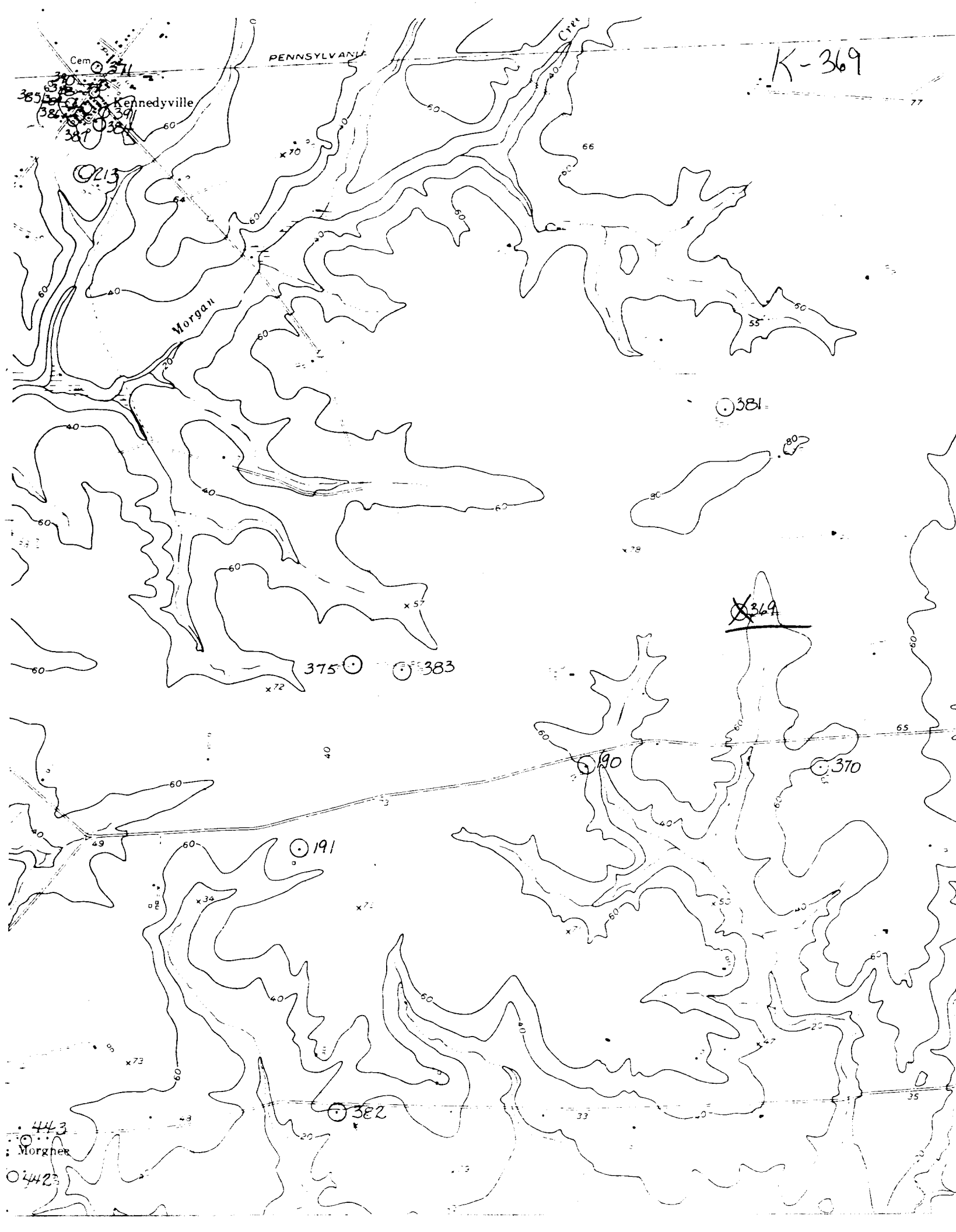
Flat pilasters and verge boards applied to the front face are the major decorative elements of the dormers. Cheeks are covered with lapped horizontal boarding.

Inside, the building has a central stair hall with a graceful dog-leg stair. The bold octogonal newel post is made of walnut as is the molded elliptical handrail. Turned balusters are of oak. The stair is hung from the side wall without walls beneath its lowest run.

Interior doors have four raised panels with applied ogee and bevel panel molding. Window and door trim is 7" in width and made up of a series of fillets and the same ogee and bevel found elsewhere in the building. Window aprons also are ornamented with a series of fillets. Baseboards are 10" in height with an ogee and bevel upper molding. The wooden mantles that remain are bold and simple in design.

Throughout the house the flooring is 5 - 6" yellow pine.

Although the main house is largely intact, the kitchen wing with its secondary stair running parallel to the main house has been extensively altered.





K-369

Ratcliffe Cross

West Facade

Kennedyville

Kent Co.

M.L. Fritz

1/1980

J. Tyler Campbell
FIRE ARMY ENGINEER
CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

Wood for the

1/1980

1/1980